

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 /052 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

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EB/AN - A.RIMAS

----- 089795

R 101629Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR:BRANIFF GROUND HANDLING

1. IN MARCH THIS YEAR, GOE ENACTED (OR AMENDED) CIVIL AERONAUTICS LAW TO PROVIDE (ARTICLE 47) THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AERONAUTICS WILL PERFORM RAMP SERVICES FOR AIRLINES SERVING ECUADOR OR MAY FORM COMPANY TO DO SO. BRANIFF REPORTS THAT GOE ABOUT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROVISION, ALLEGEDLY ON SEPTEMBER 15, AND THAT "RAMP SERVICES" WILL BE INTERPRETED TO INCLUDE CATERING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES. IT NOT CLEAR THROUGH WHAT MEDIUM DGCA WILL PERFORM THESE SERVICES, BUT IT COULD BE ECUTORIANA. BRANIFF DOUBTS FACILITIES NOW AVAILABLE, BUT NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF INADEQUATE HANDLING. MOREOVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE TREND IN SOUTH AMERICA OF GOVERNMENTS TAKING OVER GROUND HANDLING OF AIRCRAFT AND GOE ACTION COULD BE FIRST STEP IN TAKING OVER OTHER FUNCTIONS AS WELL, SUCH AS TICKET COUNTERS.

2. USG HAS ATTEMPTED PRESERVE PRINCIPLE THAT EACH AIRLINE

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SHOULD BE FREE UNDERTAKE GROUND HANDLING ITSELF OR THROUGH

AN AGENT, AT AIRLINE'S DISCRETION. IF THESE SERVICES PERFORMED BY GOVERNMENT OR NATIONAL AIRLINE, THERE IS CLEARLY POSSIBILITY OF FAVORING NATIONAL AIRLINE AT EXPENSE COMPETITORS.

3. BRANIFF NOW PERFORMS GROUND HANDLING FOR VIRTUALLY ALL AIRLINES SERVING ECUADOR. FYI: IT IS PREPARING PROPOSAL TO FORM NEW COMPANY, IN WHICH OTHERS COULD PARTICIPATE TO PERFORM GROUND HANDLING. END FYI. IT'S PRINCIPLE INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS IN PRESERVING RIGHT DO GROUND HANDLING FOR ITS OWN AIRCRAFT, NOT NECESSARILY FOR OTHERS.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIALS AND SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW U.S. CONCERNS, NO ACTIONS BE TAKEN UNTIL THERE IS OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN U.S. AND GOE CIVAIR OFFICIALS IN NEXT ONE OR TWO MONTHS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, AVIATION REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE198199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHSTYLES:DAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740252-0651
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740959/aaaabxsztel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR:BRANIFF GROUND HANDLING
TAGS: EAIR, EC, US, BRANIFF
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005